

A NEW SPECIES OF *PRISTACIURA* HENDEL (DIPTERA: TEPHRITIDAE: TEPHRITINAE) FROM SOUTHERN CHINA

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Abstract

Pristaciura brunnea sp. n. is described from Hong Kong and also recorded from Yunnan Province, China. A key to the five known species of *Pristaciura* Hendel (in tribe Tephrellini) and some additional records from Sri Lanka and northern India are included.

Introduction

The genus *Pristaciura* Hendel contains small black flies belonging to the *Sphaeniscus* group of genera in tribe Tephrellini. This group of tephritid flies breeds in the flowerheads of Lamiaceae. The species of *Pristaciura* were reviewed recently by Hancock (2010), with an undescribed species identified. Although all known species are Asian in distribution (known only as far east as Java), *Pristaciura* appears to be closely related to the Sulawesi–New Guinea genus *Curticella* Hardy, which differs in having two pairs of orbital setae instead of one, a slightly longer third antennal segment and wing cell *bcu* acute but without a distinct apical extension (Hardy 1987, Hancock 2010). The new species is described below.

Pristaciura brunnea sp. n.

(Figs 1-6)

Oxyaciura monochaeta: Wang, 1998: 244; pl. 27, fig. 263 (China: Xishuangbanna, Yunnan). Misidentification.

Pristaciura undescribed species: Hancock, 2010: 4-5 (China: Yunnan and Hong Kong).

Types. *Holotype* ♂, CHINA (HONG KONG): N[ew] T[erritories], Sai Kung Station, 26.i.1965, W.J. Voss & Hui Wai Ming collectors, Bishop Mus. *Paratypes*: 1 ♀, Hong Kong, Saikung, Kowloon, 22.iv.1965, C.M. Yoshimoto collector, Bishop Museum; 1 ♂, same data as holotype but 19.xii.1964; 1 ♂, same data as holotype but 4.i.1965. Holotype and paratypes in Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Description. Male (Fig. 1). Length of body 3 mm, of wing 3.2 mm; mostly black in colour. Head (Fig. 3) higher than long, with band of dense pale dust below eye; frons almost as wide as eye, orange-brown and with coarse, yellowish setulae, darker brown posteriorly across ocelli and laterally with dense pale dust along eye margins; face brown with dense pale dust; occiput shining black; 3 pairs of black frontal and 1 pair of black orbital setae; ocellar setae short; medial vertical seta black; lateral vertical seta vestigial; postocellar, paraverticlar and uppermost postocular setae (6 setae in total) thickened and yellow-white; other postocular setae thin and black; genal seta black; antennae a little shorter than face, with first and second segments yellow-brown, the third segment darker brown, rounded apically and about 3.5 times as long as broad; arista with microscopic pubescence, almost bare.

Thorax largely shining black; scutum with very fine pale dust and black pubescence; with the following black setae: postpronotal, presutural, anterior and posterior notopleural, postsutural supra-alar, post-alar, intra-alar, anepisternal, anepimeral, katepisternal, dorsocentrals on line of postsutural supra-alars, prescutellar acrostichals; 1 pair of basal scutellar setae, situated lateromedially and conspicuously long, the apicals absent.

Wing (Fig. 5) relatively narrow and extensively blackish-brown; with a large, oval, yellowish spot in cell r_{4+5} just beyond line of DM-Cu crossvein (hyaline in paratypes); a large, oval, hyaline spot in anterior apical quarter of cell dm centred slightly basad of line of R-M crossvein; other hyaline indentations as follows: a narrow, subquadrate spot just basad of middle of cell c (vestigial or absent in paratypes); two broadly triangular indentations from costa in cell r_1 , the inner one just enclosing the apex of stigma (cell sc adjacent to costa) and extending across cell r_{2+3} to vein R_{2+3} , the outer one just crossing vein R_1 ; three transverse posterior indentations from wing margin, the inner one across middle of cell cu_1 directed towards stigma, the middle one near apex of cell cu_1 also directed towards stigma, the outer one near base of cell m broadest at wing margin and curving anteriorly alongside DM-Cu crossvein towards spot in cell r_{4+5} ; anal lobe dark brown; alula pale brownish-hyaline; stigma short, about one-third length of cell c; R-M crossvein placed well beyond middle of cell dm, behind outer hyaline indentation in cell r_1 ; vein R_{4+5} bare; costa with a short but distinct spine at apex of cell c; cell bcu with apical extension short and acute. Haltere red-brown.

Legs yellowish brown, with femora, base of mid tibiae and basal half of hind tibiae blackish-brown; mid tibiae with a short, black apical spine.

Abdomen shining black with fine pale dust and sparse black pubescence; broadly rounded and narrowing slightly at apex. Genitalia not examined.

Female (Fig. 2). Similar to male except face paler, haltere yellow-brown and wing (Fig. 6) broader, with the oval spot in cell r_{4+5} hyaline (as in paratype males) and anal lobe and alula hyaline. Abdominal tergum VI shorter than tergum V. Oviscape (Fig. 4) black, ca 1 mm long, about 4 times as long as basal width and at least as long as abdomen, subtubular but flattened ventrally; aculeus not exposed.

Etymology. Named after the colour of the male anal lobe.

Distribution. Known only from Hong Kong and Yunnan Province in southern China.

Comments. This species differs from others in the genus in the combination of characters noted in the following key. Previously confused with *P. monochaeta* (Bezzi) (Wang 1998), it appears to be most closely related to *P. xanthotricha* (Bezzi) but has differently shaped posterior hyaline indentations on the wing and a longer, narrower oviscape (*c.f.* Bezzi 1913).



Figs 1-2. *Pristaciura brunnea* sp. n.: habitus: (1) holotype male; (2) paratype female. Wing lengths = 3.2 mm.



Figs 3-6. *Pristaciura brunnea* sp. n.: (3) head of holotype male; (4) ovipositor of paratype female; (5) wing of holotype male; (6) wing of paratype female.

Key to species of *Pristaciura* Hendel

- 1 Wing with four posterior hyaline indentations, including one at middle of cell m [head with the six postocellar, paravertical and uppermost postocular setae thickened and yellow-white; hyaline indentation at middle of cell cu₁ transverse and directed towards that at base of cell r₁ and that at base of cell m not broadly expanded posteriorly; anal lobe pale brown with base and apex hyaline; oviscapae shorter than abdomen; Taiwan and Japan (Iriomote, Ishigaki and Okinawa Islands)] *P. formosae* (Hendel, 1927)
- Wing with three posterior hyaline indentations, lacking one at middle of cell m 2
- 2 All head setae, including the six postocellar, paravertical and uppermost postocular setae thin and black [hyaline indentation at middle of cell cu₁ oblique, directed towards apex of cell c and that at base of cell m broadly expanded posteriorly; oviscapae as long as abdomen; northern India and Nepal] *P. monochaeta* (Bezzi, 1913)
- Head with at least the six postocellar, paravertical and uppermost postocular setae thickened and yellow-white 3
- 3 Head with entire row of postocular setae yellow-white; hyaline indentation in cell c broad and quadrate [hyaline indentation at middle of cell cu₁ oblique, directed towards apex of cell c and that at base of cell m broadly expanded posteriorly; oviscapae shorter than abdomen; Sri Lanka, southern India, southern Thailand, Vietnam, SE China (Hainan) and Indonesia (Java)] *P. incisa* Hendel, 1928
- Head with all postocular setae except the uppermost thin and black; hyaline indentation in cell c narrow or absent 4
- 4 Hyaline indentation at middle of cell cu₁ oblique, directed towards apex of cell c and that at base of cell m narrow, not broadly expanded posteriorly; oviscapae shorter than abdomen [male unknown; northern India and southern Burma; records from elsewhere are of *P. incisa*] *P. xanthotricha* (Bezzi, 1913)
- Hyaline indentation at middle of cell cu₁ transverse, directed towards stigma and that at base of cell m broadly expanded posteriorly; oviscapae at least as long as abdomen [anal lobe dark brown in male, hyaline in female; southern China (Yunnan, Hong Kong)] *P. brunnea* sp. n.

Additional records of *Pristaciura* species

Pristaciura incisa – SRI LANKA: 1 ♀, Niruddumunai, Trincomalee district, 9.ii.1914, R. Senior-White. (In Natural History Museum, London). This is the female noted by Hardy (1971) under '*Indaciura xanthotricha*'.

Pristaciura monochaeta – INDIA: 1 ♀, Uchani, Karnal, Haryana; 1 ♀, Cuttack, Orissa. (Both in Natural History Museum, London).

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